

## **The social-pragmatic aspect in music therapy**

Clinical research, paper 45 min.

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From the pragmatic perspective, the musical or communicational actions in music therapy are understood through their function in the 'local' context, which means, that the same action can have different meanings depending on those involved. A meaningful interplay is therefore created between the partners, verbally through formulating what one might say based on assumptions of the other person's previous knowledge, and non-verbally through showing interest, taking part in the continuation of the interplay, the organizing of the turn-taking etc.

For music therapy with clients without functional language a pragmatic approach implies focusing on the client's attempts to participate in a socially meaningful way, rather than focusing on the (missing) semantic meaning.

In this presentation, non-verbal cues used in social interaction are briefly presented, illustrated through some examples taken from research in interplay with people from populations within the field of developmental and pervasive disability.

From the analyses undertaken through my doctoral research, examples of turn-taking, turn-giving and turn-repair in musical interplay between music therapists and children with severe functional limitations are presented. The findings of these analyses are demonstrated through video clips and transcriptions of the children and therapists' interactions in music and gesture.